

Anarchy (poem)

Fortner Anderson

2002

Anarchy is not Survivor, the X-Files, or the Expos home opener
Anarchy is not Starbucks, the Second Cup, or double lattes at the Croissante Royale
Anarchy is not the Kyoto Accords, the World Bank, or the International Monetary Fund

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Anarchy is not GATT, NAFTA, UNESCO, NATO, or the European Economic Community
Anarchy is not the CBC, Tele-Quebec, CTV, Global or Nightline with Ted Koppel
Anarchy is not eco-tours to Cozumel or a Club Med outside Santo Domingo
Anarchy is not Le Devoir, the Globe and Mail, and certainly not the Gazette
Anarchy is not conferred by Nobel Prize, the Governor General Award or by an Oscar
Anarchy cannot be purchased or leased with a Visa or AMEX card
Anarchy is not Viagra, Prozac, Bo-tox or, Coors
Anarchy is not produced by the internal combustion engine, analog-digital cell phones, or a Palm Pilot
Anarchy is not a state subsidized health care system
Anarchy is not minimum wage laws, public transportation, or universal daycare
Anarchy is not prison, high school, university, or Lord of the Rings
Anarchy is not General Motors or Bell helicopter or DowChemical
It is not McDonald's fries, KFC buckets, or 2 liter bottles of Pepsi
Anarchy is not child support payments, unemployment insurance, or BS

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Anarchy is not spiked hair, facial tattoos, or a slogan painted on an up-turned camera truck
Anarchy is not a gas mask, a helmet, or a bottle of baby oil
Anarchy is not pepper spray, water cannons, the School of the Americas, truncheons, or F-16s
Anarchy is not weddings in white, funerals in black, or registrations of live birth

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Anarchy is not issued with a driver's license or a passport
Anarchy is not Oedipus, one man one vote, or a brick through the window of your local Prada outlet store
Anarchy is not found in Board of Directors shareholder agreements or in on-line derivative trading
Anarchy cannot be induced through diet, not smoking or clean-living

.
Anarchy is not dependent upon hand-outs from the frightened or the guilty
Anarchy is not the despotic state, or a revolutionary new state
It is a state-of-being
Anarchy is an escape from the order of the State, and Mommy and Daddy

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Anarchy is an escape from the tyranny of "I am"

Anarchy is release from the words that make us blind
Anarchy is a continual unleashing of desire that we have depressed, and compressed, and repressed

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Anarchy is the impossible burden of learning everything again and again
Anarchy is the birthing in blood and cries of a new world both inside and out

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Anarchy is the beauty and terror of all the unknown
Anarchy is the acceptance of complete responsibility for everything

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Anarchy can only start at home
Anarchy is the here and now
Anarchy is the common and the communal and the consensual

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Anarchy is the recognition of the necessary
Anarchy is the illumination of souls
Anarchy is the courage to live all the lives we desire together.

—Fortner Anderson (2002)

fifth Estate

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